

**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GREGG BACKS MEASURE TO PREVENT DIRTY BOMB ATTACKS**

*Senator states vulnerabilities still exist to dirty bombs*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Congressman Edward Markey (D-MA) in calling for the creation of a Task Force, headed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to help prevent a dirty bomb attack in the United States. Specifically, the Chairman of the NRC would oversee a classification and tracking system for radioactive sources that could potentially be used by terrorists, and would establish a national system for recovery and storage of unused sources. The NRC reports that among the 375 sources that are lost or stolen every year, only 60% of them have yet to be recovered. The International Atomic Energy Agency has stated that more than 100 nations may have inadequate control and monitoring programs necessary to prevent or even detect the theft of these materials.

Senator Gregg stated, “As September 11, 2001 tragically demonstrated, terrorists will use any weapon at their disposal to create terror and kill Americans, and although the human casualties of a radiological attack are far less than that of conventional weapons of mass destruction, the psychological and economic impact can be enormous. The current system of radiological source control is based on radiation safety applications, not on national security. So while the federal government has made great strides in tightening security and passing legislation to prevent bioterrorism, we are still vulnerable in counter-radiological terrorism.

“This important legislation being put forth by Senator Clinton and myself will help prevent the creation and use of dirty bombs and raise the awareness among the general public of radiological terrorism. Our heightened state of ‘code orange’ alert reminds us the war against terrorism continues and we must be prepared on all levels. I hope our efforts will impose cradle-to-grave control of powerful radiological sources that could potentially be obtained and used by terrorists.”

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